

RARE BRITISH BIRDS.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

Plymouth, October 16, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,—During the late gales we have been visited by rather an unusual number of the *Sterna arctica* and *S. hirundo*.

Specimens of each species have been shot in the neighbourhood.

The *Thalassidroma pelagica* was captured alive on the 2nd of this month, in the passage of a house, Woodlane Terrace, by H. O. Bullmore, Esq. The bird was in excellent condition, fat and fleshy, but right wing was broken.

I am, Gentlemen, yours truly,
W. P. Cocks.

Descriptions of two New Species of the Genus Orthotomus. By
FREDERIC MOORE, Assist. Mus. East India Company.

At a Meeting held in the early part of the present year, I laid before the Zoological Society a monograph of this interesting genus, and since that time I have been favoured by my brother with a search through the birds contained in the Derby Museum, which has resulted in the discovery of two additional undescribed species. These I now proceed to characterize.

ORTHOTOMUS DERBIANUS, Moore.

Forehead, crown and occiput dark ferruginous; back, rump and sides of neck ash-colour; ear-coverts, throat and breast pale ash, with the centre of the feathers whitish; flanks ashy-white; belly and vent dull white; wings brown, broadly margined throughout with yellowish-green; edge of shoulder pale brown; under wing-coverts rufescent-white; tail much graduated, ferruginous-brown above, dusky at base, paler beneath, and without discernible terminal spots or band; thighs ferruginous; upper mandible horn-colour, lower mandible and legs pale.

Length, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; of wing 2 inches; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill from frontal plumes $\frac{5}{8}$ ths inch, to gape $\frac{1}{2}$ ths inch, and tarsus $\frac{8}{10}$ ths of an inch.

Hab. Philippines? (H. Cuming). In Derby Museum, Liverpool.

Remark.—May be distinguished from all the previously known species by its greater size, and in having the ear-coverts, throat and breast ash-colour, with the centres of the feathers whitish.

ORTHOTOMUS MACULICOLLIS, Moore.

Forehead ferruginous, becoming dull on crown; feathers of the occiput greenish-brown, faintly edged with black; nares, behind the eyes, a line under, with the ear-coverts and sides of neck ferruginous-white, each feather being edged with black; back and rump greenish; throat white; breast, belly and vent ferruginous-white; sides of breast black, and flanks light greenish; wings brown, edged